



What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- **Hear** the word of God (Romans 10:14-17; 1:16,17; John 17:17; Acts 11:14).
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:30,31; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8,9; I John 5:1; Galatians 3:26).
- **Repent** of past sins and turn to God (Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; II Timothy 2:19).
- **Confess** Jesus before men (Matthew 10:32,33; Rom. 10:9,10; I John 4:15; Heb. 10:23).
- **Be Baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; Galatians 3:26,27; I Peter 3:21).
- **Abide** in the word of God (John 8:31; 15:6,7; I Corinthians 15:1,2; Revelation 2:10; I John 1:9,10; Hebrews 10:24,25; John 4:24).

Faithful Sayings Issue 15.4 January 27, 2013

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

- Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

15.4

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

January 27
2013

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope



Tools But Not Trophies

By Kyle Pope

James 5:17 makes the simple statement, “**Elijah was a man with a nature like ours...**” How true this is! Remember what we are told in First Kings chapter nineteen? After his powerful triumph over the prophets of Baal, the wicked queen Jezebel, who had already sinned against God by turning her husband Ahab to the worship of Baal, set out to take Elijah’s life. Jezebel had massacred many of the Lord’s prophets and after Elijah killed her own prophets of Baal, he had good reason to fear her threats. Elijah fled to the wilderness near Beersheba and cried out to the Lord “**...It is**



enough! O Lord now take away my life..." (19:4, NKJV). Undoubtedly like many servants of the Lord who had gone before him, and many who would come after him, Elijah exhibited a "nature like ours" when in frustration and desperation he seemed to ask why service to God must often be so difficult?



Olsen Park church of Christ

Perhaps one reason we struggle with this question comes from a failure to see ourselves as God sees us. While certainly the Lord exhibited great love for us in the sacrifice of His Son on our behalf, we might note how the Spirit refers to those who would serve Him in Romans 6:13—**"do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."** Here the Spirit refers to our bodies as **"instruments of righteousness."** Thayer defines the word *hoplon*, which is translated **"instruments"**—"any tool or implement for preparing a thing." Is that how we as Christians think of ourselves? As tools we may be used in many different ways. Sometimes we may be needed to hammer away at some type of falsehood. Other times we must chisel away elements of worldliness in ourselves or those around us. Sometimes we may have to be used as a crowbar to pry apart a conflict among



those we love. Whatever the work, a tool always remains simply an instrument used by the builder. Tools aren't delicate. Tools aren't treated like fine china, set away on a shelf and seldom brought out. Tools are used.

The problem is we don't like to see ourselves in this way. Tools are not glamorous, precious, or beautiful. They are often scarred, bent, rusted, and worn. We would much rather see ourselves as God's *trophies*, polished, protected, and safely displayed on a shelf of honor behind glass and away from concern. While certainly a place of glory awaits those who submit to God, now there is simply too much work to be done for any of us to rest as trophies. Our lives will face frustrations and disappointments in this age as we struggle to see the spiritual in a land of the material. But perhaps if we will begin to view these trials not



as unexpected hardships but simply part of the nature of the work of an instrument of righteousness to God, it will give us a much different perspective on the significance of such trials. After all it is an honor to be used as a tool of God.

